

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING SPECIFIC COLLABORATORS IN THE TALENT DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

COLORADO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

The Colorado Workforce Development Council (CWDC) is a coalition* of industry, education & training, workforce, and economic development partners from across the talent development network, coordinating among initiatives to strengthen the talent pipeline.

Vision:

The vision of the CWDC is that every Colorado business has access to a skilled workforce and every Coloradan has access to meaningful employment, resulting in statewide economic vitality.

Mission:

The CWDC's mission is to facilitate the creation and sustainability of a business-led Colorado talent development system that appropriately integrates the work of economic development, education, training, and workforce development to meet the needs of businesses, workers, job-seekers, and students.

[*See a list of coalition partners.](#)

CAREERWISE COLORADO

Problem Statement:

In today's economy, Colorado students and businesses alike lack diverse options to help them create and contribute to the growing economy. CareerWise Colorado addresses this gap by connecting students and businesses through a collaborative statewide youth apprenticeship system that creates promising career opportunities for students and provides businesses with a highly-skilled talent pipeline.

Mission:

CareerWise Colorado's mission is to create opportunities for youth and businesses across Colorado by developing and supporting an innovative, sustainable youth apprenticeship program. Through this business-led, student-centered model, CareerWise brings together public and private stakeholders to ensure that students have access to the skills and knowledge they need for financial and academic success, and that businesses have access to trained talent.

COLORADO STEM

Problem Statement:

Colorado has the second most highly skilled workforce in the country, yet we are not adequately preparing all Colorado learners to succeed in college, career, and life. Science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) literacy and competencies prepare students to succeed in Colorado's increasingly innovation-based economy, yet far too few students have access to quality STEM education and experiences. This is particularly true for low income students, students of color, and female students.

Colorado STEM Vision:

Colorado will be the most innovative state in the country in growing a local talent pipeline by ensuring all learners have the STEM education they need to succeed in an innovation economy.

Colorado STEM Theory of Change:

If Colorado:

- Builds community awareness and support for STEM, and fully aligns STEM policies, practices, and partners to increase student interest, participation, and achievement in STEM
- Focuses on ensuring all students achieve STEM literacy
- Reduces its STEM talent and skills gap

... then it will lead the nation in STEM talent development.

SKILLFUL

Problem Statement:

The labor market fails to express supply and demand of skills in a way that provides good career opportunities for all Coloradans. As a result, jobseekers cannot find meaningful work despite the skills they possess; employers have a hard time recruiting the labor they need to compete in a global digital marketplace; and educators are slow to adapt their curricula to the changing market.

Core Purpose:

Create a labor market built on skills in which there are many pathways to career success.

Description:

Skillful is an innovative, scalable platform that provides job seekers of all ages with a network of online tools and on-the-ground resources that focuses on the core skills needed to be successful. Skillful expands opportunities for employment and broadens the ways Americans learn and train for the work of the future by providing transparency around the skills a job seeker has, the skills a job seeker needs, and where he or she can find training and support to get on the path to a good job. Skillful empowers a jobseeker to own his or her path to success, with personal coaching assistance during the most pivotal moments.

Additionally, Skillful is helping employers across the state craft job descriptions that clearly express what they're looking for in a qualified applicant, without the need for proxies like college degrees, and helping employers create career pathways for their skilled employees.

Skillful is locally driven, and in Colorado is developing powerful private-public partnerships at the state level with Governor Hickenlooper, the Workforce Development Council, and other critical partners in the workforce and private sector space. Together, we've built a strong network of employers who are committed to hiring based on skills and an impressive team of career coaches who are helping job seekers find new jobs, discover training programs in their area, and feel a renewed sense of optimism and hope as they discover real pathways to good jobs. Nationally, Skillful is powered by partners like LinkedIn and Arizona State University.

BEL COMMISSION

The Business Experiential Learning Commission (BEL Commission), established by Executive Order of Governor John Hickenlooper, is tasked with overseeing a systemic solution for integrated work-based education and training that meets the needs of Colorado's students and businesses. As part of its work, the BEL Commission collaborates with public and private entities, such as businesses and school systems, to connect students, job-seekers, schools, employers, and civic agencies with experiential learning, training opportunities, and careers. CareerWise Colorado is one of the initiatives of the BEL Commission.

OUR GOAL IS STATEWIDE ECONOMIC VITALITY.

Jobseekers, workers, & students:
Access to meaningful employment



Business/Industry:
Access to strong talent pipeline

Key Collaborators



Strategies

- Advance sector partnerships
- Expand career pathways
- Champion STEM literacy
- Advocate for competency-based hiring and training
- Expand educational choice and options
- Coordinate & align communications
- Engage in continuous improvement

Tactics

- Work with industry to identify & implement solutions to meet businesses' needs
- Change understanding, mindset, & behavior around the possible multiple paths to success
- Leverage technology to achieve goals
- Empower public/private partnerships
- Increase access to career exploration
- Offer work-based learning & youth apprenticeships
- Expand concurrent enrollment
- Coordinate with local/regional implementation



IMPACTS

- * Growing middle class
- * Closing the attainment gap
- * Expanding and improving opportunity, access, and equity